

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-05 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SOE-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4013

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 0102

PASS USDA

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS ETRD, EAGR, AR, US
SUBJECT US QUOTA ON CHEESE IMPORTS

REF: A BA 8903, B BA 8387

1. DURING THE AUGUST 1977 VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, GOA HANDED HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE ON BILATERAL TRADE MATTERS WHICH TREATED, AMONG OTHERS, THE QUESTION OF US QUOTOAS ON HARD PASTE CHEESE (ITALIAN TYPE) AND SOFT CHEESE. GOA ASKED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE ARGENTINE QUOTA FOR HARD PASTE CHEESE AND EXPRESSED ITS OPPOSITION TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM FOR SOFT CHEESE (ARGENTINA HAS USED ONLY A FRACTION OF LATTER QUOTA IN RECENT YEARS).

2. THE SUBJECT OF CHEESE CAME UP AGAIN DURING THE NOVEMBER VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE, WHEN SUBSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN TRADE BAVASTRO DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ (REFTEL A). AT THIS TIME BAVASTRO PRESSED PRINCIPALLY FOR AN EXPANSION OF THE HARD PASTE CHEESE QUOTA.

3. GOA HAS RAISED ISSUE A THIRD TIME, WITH EMBASSY, ALLEGING UNCLASSIFIED

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TO HAVE HEARD THAT THE US IS ABOUT TO MODIFY ITS WORLDWIDE CHEESE QUOTA SYSTEM. THEY ASK IF WE CAN CONFIRM AND PROVIDE DETAILS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORMATION FOR USE IN REPLYING TO ARGENTINE REQUEST.

5. COMMENT: CHEESE ISSUE WAS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP IN DECEMBER 1977 AT MEETING OF US-ARGENTINE BILATERAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION. AS MEETING POSTPONED BY ARGENTINE UNTIL MARCH OR APRIL (REFTEL B), WE PRESUME GOA DOES NOT WISH TO WAIT UNTIL THEN TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. RECENT EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN USDA AND AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IN BUENOS AIRES HAS HIGHLIGHTED FACT THAT ARGENTINE CHEESE EXPORTERS HAVE UNTIL RECENTLY BEEN EXPORTING HARD PASTE CHEESE TONUS UNDER GUISE OF SOFT CHEESE. HAVING BEEN DISCOVERED, THEY ARE NOW PRESSURING THEIR GOVERNMENT TO FIND A MEANS TO ENABLE THEM TO SELL MORE HARD CHEESE IN US LEGALLY.
CASTRO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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